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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/844,437	04/27/2001	Richard A. Hanson	2026-002-03	9076

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EXAMINER

NOORI, MAX H

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2855

DATE MAILED: 07/23/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/844,437	Applicant(s) HANSON, RICHARD A.	
	Examiner Max Noori	Art Unit 2855	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claim 1, 6, and 19, the phrase "ringlike", and regarding claim 18, "hingelike" renders the claims indefinite because it is unclear whether the limitations following the phrase are part of the claimed invention. See MPEP § 2173.05(d). It is submitted that some thing is either a ring or not, the ring has its own clear definition of having a circular or round shape. It is also noted that none of the configurations presented in various figures qualify for a ring.

Claim 6, is incomplete for omitting essential elements, and structural cooperative relationships of elements amounting to a gap between the elements and the necessary structural connections. See MPEP § 2172.01. These omissions are associated with substantial recitation and/or proper functional language to explain as how the sensor measures force, what is the relation of the casing with the transducer and how does it keep excessive stress etc.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-11, 13-16, and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Heindl et al.

Regarding claim 1, 6, 16, 19-20, Heindl et al., discloses a device for programming movements of a robot with features of the claimed invention including a ring load carrying component (for example, elements 10 or 25), crossbeam located in a hollow in the load carrying component (for example, elements 24), and force sensing means mounted in the hollow (the central force sensing means in figure 1).

Regarding claims 2, 13-15, the force sensing means is in direct contact with the crossbeams.

Regarding claim 3, the crossbeams are trapped between the force carrying means.

Regarding claims 4-5, the crossbeams are capable to preload the sensing means.

Regarding claim 7, the crossbeams can be located in angle to the force carrying means (see, for example, figure 6).

Regarding claims 8-11, Heindl et al., shows similar relation between the load carrying component, and the crossbeams.

Regarding claim 18, Heindl et al., shows a hinge configuration as part of the whole load measuring means (see figure 6, element 33).

Art Unit: 2855

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 12 and 17 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heindl et al.

Heindl et al., discloses a device for programming movements of a robot teaching or suggesting features of the claimed invention except for the provision of a second sensing means, or the use of a specific vibration crystal. It would have been obvious, however, to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the cited art to allow for use of an many as desired sensor for general enhancement or use of any kind of sensing mean as convenience or a desired intended use. Because any one of such arrangements fails to provide for an unobvious advantage or a patentable distinction over other similar arrangements and are well within in the level of an ordinary skilled artisan.

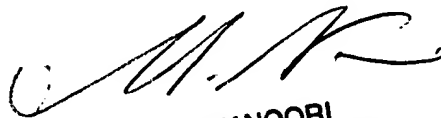
4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Max H. Noori whose telephone number is (703) 308-5248. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956. The fax number for this group is (703) 308-7382.

MHN

Wednesday, April 24, 2002


MAX NOORI
PRIMARY EXAMINER